

mended for more testing laboratories in the States for the required testing of samples etc, to avoid delays in providing redressal to the consumers. Council also recommended State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to take strict action in cases of offences which can cause damage to the life of citizens and to the community as a whole and emphasised that the cases in courts should be pursued more vigorously in order to secure adequate deterrent convictions and penalties. Central Government has written to all the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations to take action on these recommendations.

Functioning of INSAT-IB

1851. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the functioning of INSAT-IB is likely to come to an end soon;

(b) if so, by when;

(c) whether Government have decided to launch another Satellite soon; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) and (b). From the viewpoint of the availability of non-board propellant for attitude maintenance and station-keeping, the presently estimated End-of-Useful Life for INSAT IB is end-1989 + 6 months.

(c) and (d). The INSAT-IC satellite is planned to be launched in early 1988 to act as an on-orbit spare for INSAT-IB and also provide additional service facilities. The launch of INSAT-ID will be scheduled before the end of life of INSAT-IB. The work on the first two second-generation INSAT (INSAT-II) Test Satellites, that are being built indigenously, is also progressing satisfactorily. The launch of the first INSAT-II

(TS) satellite is expected in 1990 and that of the second, some 12-15 months later.

Forest cover in the country

1852. PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total area of real forest in the country and the rate of deforestation;

(b) the rate of afforestation in the country including social forest;

(c) whether even at the present rate of afforestation, the total area of forests by the end of the country will be far less; and

(d) if so, action Government propose to take to ensure that at least the present ratio of forest land is maintained ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z R. ANSARI) : (a) The recorded forest area of the country is 74.72 million hectares. The survey conducted through satellite imagery during 1980-82 has however revealed that the actual forest cover extends over 46.35 million hectares only. During the period 1951-80, 4.3 million ha. of forest area has been diverted to various non-forest uses, but after the promulgation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, only 32,825 ha of forest land has been diverted for non-forest uses.

(b) During the VII Plan period afforestation was done over 1.5 million ha. during 1985-86 and the target for 1986-87 is 1.71 million ha. By the end of the Plan period a target of 5 million ha per annum is likely to be achieved.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Some of the measures taken by the Government are as under :

(i) Strict enforcement of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 to minimise diversion of forest land to non-forest uses